



Builth Urban District Council  
Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1964

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Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,  
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Public Health Inspector.....Mr.J.E.Morgan, M.P.H.I.A.,  
M.R.S.H.



Builth Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1964

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Wells Urban District during 1964.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/65 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....701 acres.

Population.

Census 1931.....1663.  
Census 1951.....1708.  
Census 1961.....1602.  
Estimated at Midsummer 1964.....1600.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below:-

1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963. 1964.

1570. 1560. 1540. 1540. 1510. 1510. 1580. 1570. 1560. 1600.

Inhabited houses. The number of inhabited houses was 527 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.0

Live Births. Males. Females. Total. Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.

Legitimate	7.	9.	16.	
Illegitimate	1.	1.	2.	
	8.	10.	18.	11.2

The corrected birthrate was 14.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.4

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but was higher than the district deathrate.

Illegitimacy. Two illegitimate births were registered during the year.

Deaths. Males. Females. Total. Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.

12.	17.	29.	18.1
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The corrected rate was 13.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.3

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average but lower than the district birth rate.

Still Births. Males. Females. Total. Rate per 1000 live & still births.

0.	0.	0.	0.
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The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.3

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality Rate.....0.  
Total Mortality Rate for the whole of England and Wales was.....20.0.



Maternal Deaths. No death could be attributed to childbirth, which was extremely satisfactory.  
Maternal Mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.  
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.  
 Other forms of tuberculosis.....Nil.  
 Cancer.....Four.

Analysis of Causes of Death. Males....12. Females....17.

Males. Females.

Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	0.....	1.
Diabetes.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	0.....	1.
Coronary disease.....	4.....	5.
Other heart disease.....	3.....	6.
Other circulatory disease.....	0.....	2.
Influenza.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.....	0.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.

There was no change during the year in your Public Health Officers, Mr. J.E. Morgan remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Builth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease would have been performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff or Carmarthen.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is obtainable for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Builth Wells hospital. The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease at Mardy Isolation Hospital. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory. For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply.

The water supplying the town is obtained from two main sources - an impounding reservoir at Tycapel, and the Hengwm Springs. The main supply gravitates to a High Pressure Filter plant for screening before chlorination and storage in an underground reservoir. An emergency supply is available from the 6" water main of the Builth and District Water Board, which passes through the town.



Water Supplies.As a result of the prolonged dry weather the springs feeding the town's reservoirs became depleted, and from July to October the main source of water became that of the Builth and District Water Board. Over 3½ million gallons were taken during that period. Four samples of water were submitted for analysis and in each case the reports were satisfactory.

A public enquiry into the proposal to establish a Joint Water Board for Radnorshire and North Breconshire was held on the 8th. April, 1964 and the Minister has subsequently confirmed the Draft Order for the formation of such a Board.

Sewers and Drainage. The sewer system of the town discharges crude sewage into the River Wye via two outfalls. A Scheme for the construction of a new sewage works to take the sewage from the town and the areas of Llanelwedd and Oaklands has been prepared by consulting Engineers. It is expected that the work on the scheme will commence in 1965.

No. of houses not connected to main sewer.....	14.
No. of houses <del>not</del> connected to septic tanks.....	13.
No. of houses served by earth closets.....	1.
No. of inspections concerned with drainage.....	27.

Public Cleansing. Household and trade refuse is collected once per week and this frequency of service is considered adequate. The refuse is stored in bins or other containers which are placed on the kerbside to await collection. The disposal of refuse is by tipping at the Caeau Farm. The cleansing of highways is carried out jointly by this Council and the County Council. A mechanical suction cleaner traverses the main streets twice weekly while the secondary roads are swept once per week. Litter baskets are placed liberally throughout the main streets and Public Open Spaces.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Public Health Inspector. The following are details:

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	16.
Number of complaints investigated.....	16.
Number of premises inspected.....	16.
Number of premises revisited.....	14.
Number of preliminary notices served.....	9.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises. There are 11 licensed premises in the area which supply food and alcoholic beverages to the public. There is 1 licensed club. The general standard of the sanitary conveniences in the licensed premises is good.

Number of visits made by public health inspector.....	13.
Number of notices served.....	Nil.

Shops Act.

Number of inspections made.....	6.
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Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Tents,Vans and Sheds.  
There is no problem under this section.  
Number of visits made.....6.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.  
Number of premises infested.....Nil.

Rodent Control.The work of inspecting and treating infested premises is carried out by a Council workman.The Caeau Farm refuse tip was treated regularly with good poison bait takes.The sewers were twice flushed out to assist in the control of infestations.Test baits in the manholes revealed no infestations.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....17.  
Number of premises found infested.....13.  
Number of premises treated by rodent operator.....13.  
Number of premises treated by occupier.....0.

Legal Proceedings.No legal proceedings were undertaken during the year.

Section 4. Housing.There were no Council houses built during the year.  
Five bungalows were built by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants.  
Two Discretionary Grants were made in the sum of £742.10.0.  
One Standard Grant was approved.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925-1932.

- 1.Number of houses on inspection found to be unfit for human habitation.....4.
- 2.Number of houses the defects in which were remedied by informal action.....Nil.
- 3.Number of representations made with a view to the making of Demolition or Closing Orders.....Nil.
- 4.Number of Notices served requiring the execution of works.....Nil.
- 5.Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....Nil.
- 6.Number of Demolition or Closing Orders made.....Nil.
- 7.Number of undertakings accepted.....Nil.
- 8.Number of houses demolished.....Nil.
- 9.Number of Closing Orders determined.....Nil.

The Offices,Shops and Railway Premises Act,1963.

The following particulars show the work done under this new Act during the year.

<u>Registrations</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices.....15.....	72.
Retail shops.....30.....	121.
Wholesale shops,warehouses....3.....	21.
Catering Establishments.....5.....	32.
Fuel storage depots.....0.	
	Total <u>246</u>

Swimming Pool.The swimming pool continues to be well patronised during the year. There is one prefabricated swimming pool, and one paddling pool in the area. The water supply is filtered and chlorinated.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. All milk sold in the district bears a special designation, and sampling and supervision is carried out by the County Council, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Meat and Other Foods. There is no slaughterhouse operating within the area. The local butchers mainly obtain their meat from the slaughterhouse in the Rural District adjoining, but one butcher obtains supplies direct from Gloucester.

Other Foods Condemned;      7 Tins ham    62 lbs.      1 Box fish 8½lbs.

Smithfield Market. During the year the market continued to function satisfactorily as an attested market. The Council has considered the extension of market facilities to include the provision of under cover stallages for cow and calves and pigs, and the proposals are still under consideration.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....12.  
Number of notices served.....1.

Ice Cream Premises. There are sixteen retailers of ice-cream selling the pre-packed type, while there is one producer retailer.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....9.  
Number of notices served.....0.

Fried Fish Shops.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....2.  
There is one fried fish shop in the town.

Byelaws under Section 13. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of food premises by type, were: Licensed Hotels 11, Food Shops 32, Cafes and unlicensed hotels 12, Fish and Chip shops 1, and Bakehouses 3.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following case of notifiable infectious disease was notified to me during the year:-

Quartern Malaria..... 1 case.

This case was incubated abroad and was nursed at home.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.



Tuberculosis.The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	18.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	1.
Number of cases removed as deceased.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	2.
Number of cases who left the district.....	2.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	15.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years is shown below:-

1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.	1963.	1964.
1.	1.	3.	1.	1.	2.	1.	0.	3.	1.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BUILTH WELLS IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i.Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
ii.Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	23	-	-
iii.Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	20	24	-	-



## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	1	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a)Insufficient	3	-	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	-	-	-	-

Part VIII. Outwork(Sections 110 and 111) No outwork was done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health

